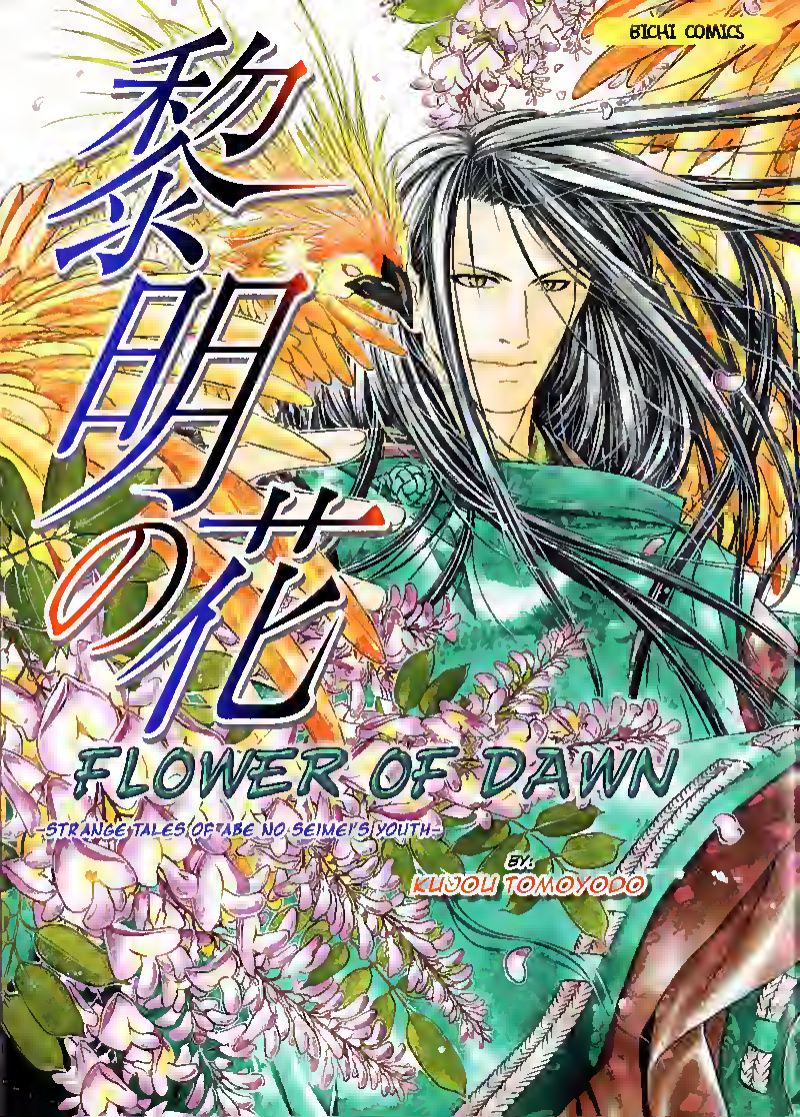
BICHI COMICS



FLOWER OF DAWN

-STRANGE TALES OF ABE NO SEIMEI'S YOUTH-

BY:
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REIMEI NO HANA

KUJOU TOMOYODO A.K.A. INARIYA FUSANOSUKE

CHAPTER 1

GENRE:
FANTASY, SHOUNEN AI

RAWS:
AIKA THOMPSON

TRANSLATION:
YUGIRI & AIKA THOMPSON

EDITING:
YUGIRI & AIKA THOMPSON

GRAPHICS:
VEJA24

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IT'S SAID THAT DEMONS TAKE SHAPE FROM THE FEELINGS LYING DEEP INSIDE THE HUMAN HEART
-THE STRANGE TALE OF THE INUGAMI-
CLOMP
CLOMP

*THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN CHARGE OF MAGIC AND DIVINATION
I HEARD SEIMEI DREAMED ABOUT IT
IF HE HAD A PREMONITION THAT'S A SURE SIGN ILL FORTUNE IS ON THE WAY
IT SEEMS THERE'S BEEN A STRANGE OCCURRENCE TO THE NORTH
AH, YASUNORI
YES, FATHER?
CHIP
SEIMEI?
TENSE
A WANDERING SPIRIT HAS APPEARED
CHIP
SOMEWHERE ITS SHRINE WAS DESTROYED
DISTURBED FROM ITS SLUMBER IT IS NOW GRIEVING BITTERLY
DESPITE BEING ONLY A CHILD, ARE NO SEIMEI HAS ALREADY BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE ONMYOU-RYOU" FOR HIS INCREDIBLE TALENT
HIS PREMONITIONS UP TO NOW HAVE OFTEN BEEN MORE PERCEPTIVE THAN THEIR OWN
I'LL HAVE YOU C LLED IF I NEED INFORMATION FOR N EXORCISM.
FOR NOW I'M LEAVING SEIMEI IN YOUR C RE

THIS IS ABOUT SHIKIGAMI...
UH, NOTHING MUCH
HE'S EXTREMELY TALENTED
SO TRAIN HIM WELL...
MY FATHER, TADAYUKI DIDN'T NEED TO TELL ME TO BRING SEIMEI UP WELL.
WELL I'M STUDYING
...YES
I WOULD HAVE DONE IT ANYWAYS...
RUSTLE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HA!
WATCH
SHIKIGAMI" MAGIC TECHNIQUES ARE FOR SHAPING DEMONS TO SERVE YOU
AT FIRST
...SPIRIT THAT COULD SERVE AS A MAGIC-USE"S FAMILY
WHILE HE WAITED FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR POWER TO MATURE
I THOUGHT I'D BE JEALOUS AND ANGRY,
SINCE FATHER TREATED SEIMEI PREFERENTIALLY
BUT...
WOW!

THAT'S AMAZING!
IT'S A DRAGON!
WWW
even though it was just a paper charm
JUST LIKE I'D EXPECT FROM YOU, YASUNORI-DONO!!
it's mean!!
THAT'S THE BASIC TECHNIQUE.
YOU MEAN I'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT TOO!?
IF YOU STUDY HARD.
okay!! I'LL DO MY BEST!!
BUT ONCE I WAS ACTUALLY IN CONTACT WITH HIM,
I WAS DRAWN TO HIS EARNEST CHARACTER
AND I COULDN'T HELP WANTING TO PROTECT AND GUIDE HIM.
YOU COMPLETE THIS TECHNIQUE BY GIVING THE DEMON A NAME
GIVING IT A NAME RESTRAINS IT AT ITS SOURCE
"so you can control it"

IT'S KOTO-DAMA.
FROM HERE IF YOU FIGURE OUT THE DEMON'S CURRENT NAME AND GIVE IT A NEW ONE,
YOU'LL HAVE MADE IT INTO A SHIKIGAM!
BUT YOUR FAMILY HAS A HISTORY OF EASILY ATTRACTING EVIL SPIRITS
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
AND THEN DO THIS
SEIMEI?
YOU'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE LEARNING THOSE ADVANCED PARTS OF THE TECHNIQUE-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AND LIKE THIS
FOLD
FOLD
POP
RUSTLE
WHAT IS THAT!?
!?
WHOOSH
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
SHIEK!

GRAAAA
GRAAAA
PULSE
CRACKLE
IS THAT...?
AH!
YASUNORI-DONO, I DID IT!
YASUNORI-DONO I SUMMONED A SHIKIGAMI JUST LIKE YOURS
SHIKI-GAMI...?
HE SAYS THAT'S A SHIKIGAMI...?
CHATTER
IDIOT...
IT'S SHAPED LIKE A DOG...
CHATTER

YASU..
YASUNORI-DONO?
I
...
IMPOS-SIBLE
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BARELY TAUGHT HIM ANYTHING
GOSSIP
CHATTER
WHAT AN UGLY FORM
mutter
BUT THAT'S NO SURPRISE SINCE IT CAME FROM HIS ANIMAL BLOOD
mutter
HE LEARNED THAT JUST FROM WATCHING ME?
WHEN I WAS THAT AGE
IS THIS THE DIFFERENCE IN POWER HE WAS SAID TO BE BORN WITH?
GLENCH
SEIMEI?
DASH
I COULDN'T EVEN MAKE TALISMANS

ITS TAIL BRANCHED INTO A FORK!?
IT CAN'T BE
SHOOSH
WHOOSH
THEN THAT THING IS...
SFX SOUND OF WIND BLOWING
I'M CHASING AFTER THEM,
REPORT BACK TO MY FATHER!
WHY...
WHY WERE THEY ALL LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT...?
I ONLY WANTED TO BE LIKE YASUNORI-DONO
IT CAME FROM HIS ANIMAL BLOOD

"PRACTITIONER OF MAGIC THAT USES TAO IST, BUDDHIST AND OTHER ELEMENTS"
EVERYONE'S ALWAYS SAYING, "LET'S WORK HARD AND BECOME--
--GREAT ONMOUJI"
AND YET
THEY WERE THINKING THAT KIND OF THING
SHIKISAMI
NICK
ARE YOU TRYING TO COMFORT ME?
NUZZLE
NH.
BADUMP
FOR ALL I KNOW, WE MIGHT EVEN BE FROM THE SAME FAMILY, RIGHT?
YOU WON'T BETRAY ME WILL YOU?
AH... WHAT'S THIS COZY FEELING...?

IT'S COMFORTABLE LIKE THIS
ENOUGH
BADUMP
I'LL JUST STAY THIS WAY...
EVEN THOUGH MY CHEST ACHES...
IT FEELS LIKE ALL MY SORROWS AND MY BODY ARE MELTING AWAY
I'VE HAD ENOUGH
BADUMP
BADUMP
A POWERFUL BUT DANGEROUS GOD *... RIT
INUGAMI.*
THEN FALL INTO SLEEP
COMPLETELY
YOU'VE REVEALED YOUR TRUE NATURE. YOUR NAME IS YASHINORI.

GRRRRR...
IT'S NO USE
YA.
YASUNORI DONO?
ALREADY UNCOVERED YOUR TRUE NATURE
I WON'T LET YOU HARM SEIMEI
UNDER THE PRETENSE OF BEING HIS SHIKIGAMI,
SEIMEI.
QUICK, COME HERE.
YOU PLANNED TO POSSESS SEIMEI AND STEAL HIS BODY
BUT YOU COULDN'T HIDE THE PROOF THAT YOU'RE REALLY AN INUGAMI— YOUR TAIL.
SFX: THE SOUND OF DROWNING
THE BINDING ON ITS NAME WAS TOO WEAK?!
DAMN IT!

IT TOOK ME YEARS TO MASTER THE TECHNIQUES.
BUT HE'S JUST BORN WITH THAT POWER
WHY IS SEIMEI ALWAYS SO "SPECIAL"?
WHY?
HOW CAN HE PULL OFF SO MUCH WITHOUT EVEN TRYING?
IT'S NOT FAIR
BUT THAT POWER OF HIS COMES FROM HIS ANIMAL BLOOD.
EVERYONE'S ALWAYS PRAISING HIM
"A DEMON OR OTHERWORLDLY BEING THAT IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH NATURE OR THE SPIRITS OF NATURE."
HE'S NOT A HUMAN
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S YOUKAI."
SO ISN'T THAT ALL THE MORE REASON HE SHOULD JUST GO TO THE SPIRIT WORLD?

YES, THAT'S IT THEN!
HAND YOURSELF OVER TO THE INU-GAMI
IT WILL BE EASIER FOR ME AND EVERYONE ELSE TOO-
YASUNORI-DONO
SEIMEI

SEIMEI!!
LISTEN CLOSELY,
YOU NEED TO NAME IT
WHAT?
JUST REPEAT AFTER ME
I NAME THEE SUKUNE
OKAY!
I-
NA-
UNDER THAT NAME, SUBMIT TO ME.
NAME THEE SUKUNE
SMACK
OW!

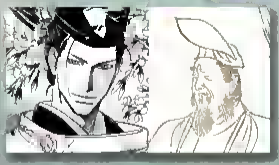
TAKE A LOOK
YOUR SHIKIGAMI- INUGAMI SUKUNE
EH?
WELL,
S.. SORRY
YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MAJIN* AND A SHIKIGAMI!
WELL THAT'S YOUR CURRENT POWER LEVEL.
HE, ER, SUPE SHRUNK A LOT..
EHH?
they only get as big as you can make them
that's him? but he was so big before..
woof woof
INUGAMI
I HAVEN'T EXTINGUISHED THE ENVY I SHOULD HAVE ABANDONED THE DAY I DECIDED TO GUIDE SEIMEI
THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WHAT ENDED UP SUMMONING THIS ONE
POSSESS PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR JEALOUSY AND RESENTMENTS
IT'S PITIFUL REALLY

WHAT WOULD RISE TO THE SURFACE FROM DEEP INSIDE ME
THAT WHEN IT LAID MY FEELINGS BARE
BUT IT DIDN'T EXPECT
IN THE END,
WOULD BE MY WISH THAT AS HE GROWS SEIMEI WILL WANT TO STAY IN THIS WORLD-
BECAUSE I LOVE HIM
ALTHOUGH I HATE TO ADMIT IT
Is my unconscious really that perfect c-?
AH!
woof! woof!

〔狗神奇伝・おわり〕

- Translation Notes -

Characters



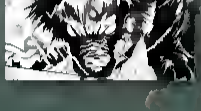
They did exist!!!

Many of the characters in this manga are real figures from Japanese history. Kamo no Yasunori (919-997), his father Kamo no Tadayuki, and his student Abe no Seimei (921-1005) were all prominent Heian-era onmyouji. They made important advances in astronomy and calendar science, cemented their respective families' positions as among the most powerful of the Heian era. Seimei in particular became a near-legendary expert in divination and magic.

Seimei was rumored to be only half-human; the child of a human father and a kitsune (fox spirit) mother.

(citation: http://eos.kokugakuin.ac.jp/modules/... and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onmyodo)

Inugami



In traditional Japanese mythology, inugami (literally "dog gods") are powerful beings capable of conferring great luck and happiness on their masters. However, they are also quite dangerous as they are often associated with resentment, jealousy, and the desire for revenge. They have independent wills and can turn on their owners and possess them. Seimei's chest pain in the story is a traditional symptom of inugami possession, and a forked tail is a sign an inugami (or other magical being) has grown especially dangerous and strong.

(citation: http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/otlah/Articles/japdog.html)

Questions, concerns, moral or religious outrage?
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